



February 7, 2005

**COVE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

SAVE THE DATES!

February 21st and 22nd (Engineering Information & Project Update)

March 14th (Detailed Costs and Voting Information)

March 30th (All day Drop-in Open House)

Dear Cathedral City Cove property owner:

We would like to bring you up-to-date on the proposed Cove Improvement District for sewers and streets in the Cove.

Property owners in the Cove and City staff have spent the past two years working to meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 358. It prohibits the use of septic tanks in the Cove beyond January 1, 2012. AB 358 was passed by the State in October 2001 in response to a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) finding that the long-term use of septic tanks in the Cove contributes to the degradation of the area's underground water supply. Because of the bill, the city was able to obtain \$5.3 million in state funds to help pay for sewers.

Last July, the City Council accepted petitions from approximately 53% of the property owners in the Cove requesting cost estimates of an assessment district to pay for sewers and streets. The City is now performing engineering work and doing financial calculations to present the cost to each property owner in the Cove prior to a vote on the proposed Cove Improvement District.

The voting period will be from March 24 to May 25, 2005. It is planned that the ballots will be tabulated at the City Council meeting of May 25th. Each property owner in the Cove will be mailed a ballot on March 24th, and will be able to mail it in or turn it in directly at City Hall.

Engineering work is in process

Psomas Engineering has collected field information about property boundaries, septic tank locations and varying elevations and is now preparing the preliminary engineering that will be used to calculate the annual property owner assessment for the proposed Cove Improvement District.

Cove Steering Committee is meeting every two weeks at City Hall

A Cove Steering Committee of 23 members has been formed and is meeting every other Tuesday night at City Hall. The Cove Steering Committee is made up of property owners from the Cove and is working closely with City staff and the project engineers to provide feedback on engineering, cost estimates and other facets of the project.

Cove Community Meetings scheduled for February and March

Community meetings are scheduled at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. February 21st and 22nd to focus on specific engineering information related to sewer and street improvements in the Cove. The same specific engineering information will be presented at all four meetings so you can come to the session that's most convenient for you.

At one large meeting on March 14th, property owners will receive detailed costs for the proposed Cove Improvement District, as well as individual property owner assessment costs. In addition, balloting and voting information will be covered at this meeting. Engineers working on the proposed district will also be available to meet with interested property owners. Although various monthly and annual costs have been speculated, please beware -- these are not accurate. True costs cannot be determined until mid-March, only after the project is designed and engineered.

Below is a schedule showing the upcoming Community Meetings, as well as dates for the balloting and voting period for the proposed Cove Improvement District:

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
Community Meetings Topic: Engineering Update	Monday Feb. 21, 2005	5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.	Council Chamber City Hall
Community Meetings Topic: Engineering Update	Tuesday February 22, 2005	5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.	Council Chamber City Hall
Community Meeting Topic: Costs for Proposed Cove Improvement District	Tuesday March 14, 2005	6:00 p.m.	Doral Desert Princess 67-967 Vista Chino & Landau Cathedral City
City Council Meeting Approve Cove Assessment Balloting and Voting Period	Wednesday March 23, 2005	6:30 p.m.	City Council Chamber City Hall
Ballots mailed to Cove Property Owners; 45-day voting period	March 24 to May 25, 2005		
All day drop-in workshop so Cove property owners can have one-on-one time with engineers and City staff	Wednesday March 30, 2005	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	1st Floor Study Session Room City Hall
City Council tabulates Votes Ballot Results Announced	Wednesday May 25, 2005	6:30 p.m.	City Council Chamber City Hall

Why is the City moving so quickly?

It's possible that approximately half of the \$5.3 million State Grant Award for the Cove could be forfeited if local matching funds are not available by March 2006. The proposed Assessment District would provide the required local match. In addition, State Law AB 358's septic tank prohibition date of January 1, 2012 keeps closing in; and, as the cost of installing sewers continues to rise, the cost to property owners will only increase over time.

How can I keep informed on this project?

Questions and Answers (Q &A) regarding the proposed Cove Improvement District, as well as the State Grant Awards and AB 358 are attached to this letter. These questions were generated from the Cove Steering Committee, as well as from past community meetings held in the Cove.

If you need more information, the City has set up a special COVE HELP LINE which is accessible 24 hours a day. You can leave a message and a member of the project team will call you back in a timely manner.

The COVE HELP LINE Phone Number is (760) 250-8673

Updates are available on the City's Website, www.cathedralcity.gov by clicking on the Quick Link "Cove Sewer Information." Here you will find maps, organizational charts and background information for the Cove Improvement District. We are doing our best to put as much information as possible Online for your convenience.

You are also welcome to contact the City's Engineering Department directly, by calling Donna Velotta, Engineering Secretary, at (760) 770-0349.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Community Meetings so that we can provide you with the latest information regarding the engineering elements and the proposed cost of the Cove Improvement District.

Please be assured we want to hear and address your viewpoints on this priority project.

Sincerely,

William O. Bayne, P. E.
City Engineer

and

Cove Steering Committee
(Listing Attached)

Attachments:

Cove Steering Committee List
Cove Improvement District Questions and Answers
Cove Boundary Map